

VLR-6/16/93

NRHP-8/12/93

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name CARLIN HALL  
other names/site number Curtis Hall, Carlin Community Hall,  
Glencarlyn School, Glencarlyn Recreation  
Center, VDHR File No. 63-11

2. Location

street & number 5711 4th Street, South not for publication N/A  
city or town Arlington vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Arlington code 013 zip code 22204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide x locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Henry C. McIlhenny  
Signature of certifying official

6 July 1993  
Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

   entered in the National Register                       
   See continuation sheet.                       
   determined eligible for the                       
   National Register                       
   See continuation sheet.                       
   determined not eligible for the                       
   National Register                       
   removed from the National Register                       
   other (explain):                     

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

	private
<u>x</u>	public-local
	public-State
	public-Federal

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_x_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

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Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

Cat:	Social	Sub:	Meeting Hall
	Religion		Religious Facility
	Recreation and Culture		Theater
	Recreation and Culture		Auditorium

Cat: Social	Sub: Meeting Hall
Education	School
Recreation and Culture	Auditorium

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: CINDER BLOCK

roof METAL

walls WOOD

other WOOD

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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the proper on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND

DEVELOPMENT

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Period of Significance 1892-1920

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Significant Dates 1892

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Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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Cultural Affiliation N/A

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Architect/Builder Bailey, Theodore

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing	
1	18 315510 4303520	2	
3		4	

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gail Baker

organization Mary Washington College date December 1, 1992

street & number 3420 21st Avenue, N. telephone 703-276-9311

city or town Arlington state VA zip code 22207

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Arlington County Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Community

street & number 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Arlington state VA zip code 22201

name Arlington Public Schools

street & number 2770 S. Taylor Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Arlington state VA zip code 22206

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia

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Architectural Summary

Constructed in 1892, Carlin Hall (5711 Fourth Street, South; Arlington, Virginia), is a tall one-story, frame, Late Victorian cross-plan community hall. The exterior walls are covered with wooden siding. The wooden cornice, which extends fully around the building, and the four gable pediments are carried on simple wooden brackets. On the principal (south) elevation, twin entrances flank a set of five double-hung sash windows; a later porch shelters the west doorway. The gable roof is covered in standing-seam terne metal. Centered atop the roof is a four-sided wood cupola with a pyramidal metal roof. A kitchen occupies a low, shed-roofed addition in the northwest quadrant of the cross plan. The meeting hall occupies the center of the building, with a second room (the alcove) to the east, and the entryway, bathrooms, and kitchen to the west. Stairs in the entryway lead to a loft used for storage. Carlin Hall is in the center of the Glencarlyn neighborhood, the earliest planned suburban subdivision in Arlington County. It fronts on Fourth Street, South, and is set on a flat, grassy, fenced lot, with several large red cedar trees. Behind the building are a playground and a small, noncontributing, wooden storage shed. To the east is the Ball-Carlin Cemetery, which contains the graves of members of the Ball and Carlin families, early residents of the area. Now owned by Arlington County, Carlin Hall continues to serve as a community meeting hall.

Architectural Analysis

Carlin Hall is built on a cross plan, approximately 45' wide by 30' deep. The arms of the cross are of equal width, but the east and west arms project nearly two and a half times farther than the north and south arms. A wood-frame building resting on an uncoursed stone foundation, Carlin Hall is sheathed in wood siding of two designs separated by a wooden belt course. Vertical beaded board is used below the belt course and 5" German siding above. The belt also serves as a sill for the windows. Cornerboards are interrupted by the belt and rest on the wooden water table.

On the principal (south) elevation, two doorways flank the projecting pavilion. The western doorway, sheltered by a porch added in the 1960s or early 1970s, is the main

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Arlington, Virginia**

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entrance. Each door is surmounted by a four-pane, rectangular, glazed transom and flanked by three-pane sidelights. A similar doorway at the north elevation has been converted to windows. The transom and sidelights remain.

Coupled windows are centered in the east and west projecting pavilions; sets of five windows fill the north and south pavilions. All are nine-over-nine double-hung sash.

The cornice molding on the doors and windows incorporates a decorative motif of rectangular blocks resembling exaggerated dentils. These blocks are extended on the side trim and mullions, suggesting brackets.

The cornice and the four gable pediments carry simple wooden brackets. The tympana are faced with the same vertical bead board used on the building's base. Centered in the west tympanum is a round, four-light window. Round wooden louvered vents are centered in the others. The pediment bases are pented and covered in flat-seam metal.

The gable roof is covered in standing-seamterne metal, as is the porch roof. The eaves are wide, and the cornice is boxed. Metal gutters are half-round; downspouts are full-round. Placement of downspouts is generally at corners.

A wood cupola, set on a molded wood platform, is centered on the roof. The cupola's walls are covered in vertical beaded board, with a semicircular arched wood louver with horizontal slats on each side. The cupola has a narrow wood cornice with carved corner brackets and cornerboards. The pyramidal cupola roof with flared eaves is also clad withterne metal. Atop this roof is a ball-and-rod lightning rod.

A bulkhead on the west elevation leads to an unfinished basement, where the furnace and hot water heater are located.

A low, shed-roofed kitchen addition, built sometime before the early 1920s, occupies the northwest quadrant of the cross plan. The addition is flush with the west gable end, but it extends approximately 2' beyond the plane of the north pavilion. The addition rests on a parged cinder block foundation. Wall sheathing and roof materials match those of the original building. A six-over-six, double-hung sash window is centered in the addition's

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**Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia**

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north side. An exterior door opens out from the kitchen on the west. The window and door surrounds on the addition are plain, milled boards without the decorative motif found on the original building.

The interior of the building is organized in three rectangular sections. The western section includes the entryway, bathrooms and kitchen addition; the main hall occupies the center section; and the "alcove room" forms the eastern section. A winding staircase in the entryway leads to a loft used for storage. A door in the loft provides access to the attic. The main hall is 19'2" x 29'2". The original bead board wainscoting was removed, and the walls now are all plaster. The ceiling, now 15'3" high, was lowered slightly to accommodate wiring and air ducts. It is composed of stained wood boards running the length of the room.

From the early 1920s until 1950, Carlin Hall was used as an elementary school. The Arlington County School Board Minutes for this period record changes made to the building, including installation of a furnace in 1928 and modern plumbing and a septic tank in 1931. In 1953, in preparation for returning the building to the Glencarlyn community, the School Board ordered the following changes: installation of tile flooring; replacement of light fixtures, doors and entrance porches; replastering; creation of an outside entrance to the basement and sealing of the inside entrance; and closing in of the balcony (now the loft), which opened into the hall (Arlington County School Board Minutes, 11 July 1953).

Following a fire in 1961, the original standing seam metal roof and some of the rafters were replaced. The existing terne metal roof was installed in 1988 as part of an exterior rehabilitation of the building undertaken by Arlington County (Neblett "Project Booklet").

Carlin Hall is set on a grassy quarter-acre fenced lot in the center of suburban Glencarlyn. Several large red cedar trees shade the grounds. To the north of the building are two play areas, which serve neighborhood children and the preschool. A gable-roofed, noncontributing wooden storage shed built in 1987 abuts the northern boundary fence.

While Glencarlyn has many more residents now than it did a century ago, the neighborhood's boundaries, street patterns, and suburban character remain remarkably intact.



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**Carlin Hall  
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**Statement of Significance**

Carlin Hall is historically significant for its association with the development of the Glencarlyn neighborhood, the first planned suburban subdivision in Arlington County, Virginia. From its construction in 1892 until about 1920, when it became a school, Carlin Hall was the single most important structure in the community, serving as a meeting place for the newly formed civic association and the Episcopal church congregation, as well as providing a place for dances, plays, holiday festivities and a variety of other community social events. The work of local carpenter Theodore Bailey, Carlin Hall also is architecturally significant for the integrity of its Late Victorian vernacular design, proportions, use of materials and detailing.

**Justification of Criteria**

Criterion A: Carlin Hall is associated with the development of civic life in Glencarlyn, and with the beginning of Arlington's transformation from a rural to a suburban county.

Criterion C: Carlin Hall, the work of local carpenter Theodore Bailey, possesses high artistic values in its Late Victorian vernacular design, proportions, use of materials and detailing.

**Historical Background**

The Glencarlyn neighborhood, called Carlin Springs until 1896, is situated on a plateau formed by Four Mile Run and Long Branch in western Arlington County, near the Fairfax County border. The neighborhood began in April 1887 when William Wallace Curtis and Samuel Swinfin Burdett purchased approximately 134 acres from the heirs of James Harvey Carlin (Arlington County Deed Book H-4, 1; Stetson 1935, 118-19). Two months later, Curtis and Burdett, Washington law partners, announced the subdivision of 60 acres of their property into 360 lots, each 50 by 120 feet, to be sold for \$100 per lot. They also formed The Carlin Springs Co-Operative Association, a joint stock company to be composed of all the lot owners, and conveyed to it the remaining 74 acres not platted, with a portion set

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**Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia**

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aside for a community park ("Carlin Springs and the Carlin Springs Co-Operative Association" 1888, 5-8).

Curtis died in September 1888, just as the new venture was getting off the ground. Burdett, however, built a home for himself in Glencarlyn, where he lived with his wife until his death in 1914. A man of considerable talent and experience, Burdett played an instrumental role in the new community's development. Born in England, he emigrated to the United States at age twelve, settling in Ohio. He studied law at Oberlin College. In 1861 he joined the First Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, and was promoted to the rank of captain. From 1869 to 1873, he served as a Republican Representative to Congress from Missouri. In 1874 President Grant appointed him Commissioner of the General Land Office, a position he held until 1878, when he and Curtis opened a Washington law office. In 1885 and 1886 he was elected commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (Washington Post, 4 Sept. 1888, 5; New York Times, 26 Sept. 1914, 11; Biographical Directory 1928, 760).

Curtis and Burdett chose the location for their new neighborhood well. The site was near Washington and Alexandria, but still rural, and the Washington, Ohio & Western Railroad ran nearby, providing easy access to the city. Its site on a level plateau, surrounded by hill slopes, streams and forest, provided an appealing setting (Harwood 1969, 11; Stetson 1935, 125).

Curtis and Burdett addressed their advertising to "all men and women of moderate means, or who receive stated salaries" (Curtis and Burdett 1987, 1). The first deed to a purchaser was recorded in October 1888 (Arlington County Deed Book J-4, 63), and the subdivision plat was attached and recorded with it. By 1890, fourteen new houses had been erected ("The First Addition to Carlin Springs" 1890).

The residents of the growing village soon felt the need for a place to gather. The county remained rural with only a scattering of crossroads settlements, and travel along the existing roads, none of which had a hard surface, was chancy at best (Rose 1976, 138-41). In 1892, the Carlin's Hall Association was chartered as a stock corporation, with lot owners

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Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia

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purchasing shares for the purpose of building a community meeting hall (By-Laws of the Carlin's Hall Association 1892). Construction began that spring on two lots located roughly at the village center.

The carpenter chosen was Theodore Bailey (1838-1905) of Bailey's Crossroads. He was the grandson of circus founder Hachaliah Bailey, who purchased land in Fairfax County in 1837 for animal training and winter quarters. Theodore's parents, Mariah and Lewis Bailey, settled at Bailey's Crossroads and raised their ten children there (Steadman 1964, 243; Fairfax Herald, 29 Sept. 1905; Whitt 1966, 16-17). Bailey's bid dated March 23, 1892, promised to "furnish all material and build Hall, as plans and specifications call for...without shingle roof [as in an earlier proposal] but sheathed for tin roof for \$1379.29" (Estimate 1892). Although little is known about his other work, Bailey did build St. Paul's (Episcopal) Chapel in Fairfax County (now Alexandria) in 1889. For this, he incorporated existing carriage houses into the building's plan to create a traditional cross shape (Massey 1989, 28; Whitt 1966, 87-88). Thus, he was already familiar with this form when he began work on Carlin Hall.

From the time of its completion, the new hall (named Curtis Hall in honor of William W. Curtis, who had died in 1888) quickly became the focus of village civic life. Early in 1893, the Carlin Springs Village Improvement Association was formed, and held regular meetings at the Hall. Samuel Burdett was elected the group's first president. Minutes for the association during its first five years reflect the range of issues facing the growing community, including improving the train schedule, establishing a school, planting trees, building sidewalks, setting up telephone lines, seeking road improvements and addressing sanitation concerns (Minutes 1893-1918). The Hall also was used for Episcopal church services from 1892 until 1910 (Houlson 1956, 12; Evening Star, 5 April 1893).

Community life, too, revolved around the Hall. Hadassah Backus, Curtis's niece, who was born in Glencarlyn in 1888, wrote about those early years: "About once a month there was a sociable at the Hall. Cakes and lemonade were contributed by ladies in the village. There were games for young and old.... When the young began to get sleepy the grown folks would dance." She also told of plays and musicals, with the "stage" set up in the smaller "alcove" room, which also served to store the platform and removable

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communion rail used in church services. Fireworks displays at the Hall on the Fourth of July were paid for with pooled resources (Backus 1952; Houlson 1956, 12).

In 1920, after the Glencarlyn School had been destroyed by fire, the Carlin's Hall Association voted to donate use of the Hall to the School Board, with the provision that it be given back when no longer needed. The Hall served as Glencarlyn School for thirty years, then was returned to the Carlin's Hall Association in 1953 (Arlington County School Board Minutes, 11 July 1953; Northern Virginia Sun, 15 July 1953). (These transfers were not recorded in the land records.) Finding it increasingly difficult to care for the Hall, the association in 1962 deeded the property to Arlington County for use as a recreational or cultural center (Arlington County Deed Book 1467, 37 and 39). The Arlington County Board designated Carlin Hall a local historic district in 1978.

Since 1977, the Glencarlyn Citizens Association has managed activities at Carlin Hall on behalf of the County (Arlington Journal, 18 August 1977). Today the Hall hosts a cooperative preschool, exercise classes, birthday parties and other events, as well as civic meetings and seasonal gatherings, once again playing a vital role in community life.

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Arlington, Virginia**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated boundary of Carlin Hall is shown as lots 14, 15, and 16 in Block 15 on the accompanying map titled Portion of Arlington County Zoning Map No. 25, at a scale of 1" = 200'.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the entire area historically associated with the community hall, including Lot 14, which was purchased by the Arlington County School Board in 1924 to expand the schoolyard when the hall was used as a school. This lot forms an integral part of the setting and continues to be used for the community.

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**Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia**

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs are of:

**CARLIN HALL  
Arlington County, Virginia  
VDHR File No. 00-39**

1. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: Detail of south (principal) elevation, looking northwest  
NEG. NO.: 12971-13  
FILE NO.: VDHR 00-39  
PHOTO 1 of 8
2. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: South facade and west elevation, looking north from street  
NEG. NO.: 12970-6  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 2 of 8
3. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: East and north elevations, looking southwest  
NEG. NO.: 12970-15  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 3 of 8

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**Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia**

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4. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: North and west elevations, looking southeast  
NEG. NO.: 12610-18  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 4 of 8
5. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: South facade and west elevation, looking northeast  
NEG. NO.: 12610-7  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 5 of 8
6. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: Interior of main hall, facing southwest  
NEG. NO.: 12970-20  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 6 of 8
7. CREDIT: Gail Baker  
DATE: 1992  
NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives  
VIEW OF: Interior of main hall, facing northeast  
NEG. NO.: 12970-22  
FILE NO.: same as above  
PHOTO 7 of 8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photo Page 15

**Carlin Hall  
Arlington, Virginia**

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8. CREDIT: Gail Baker

DATE: 1992

NEGATIVE FILED: Virginia State Library and Archives

VIEW OF: Noncontributing shed

NEG. NO.: 12610-17

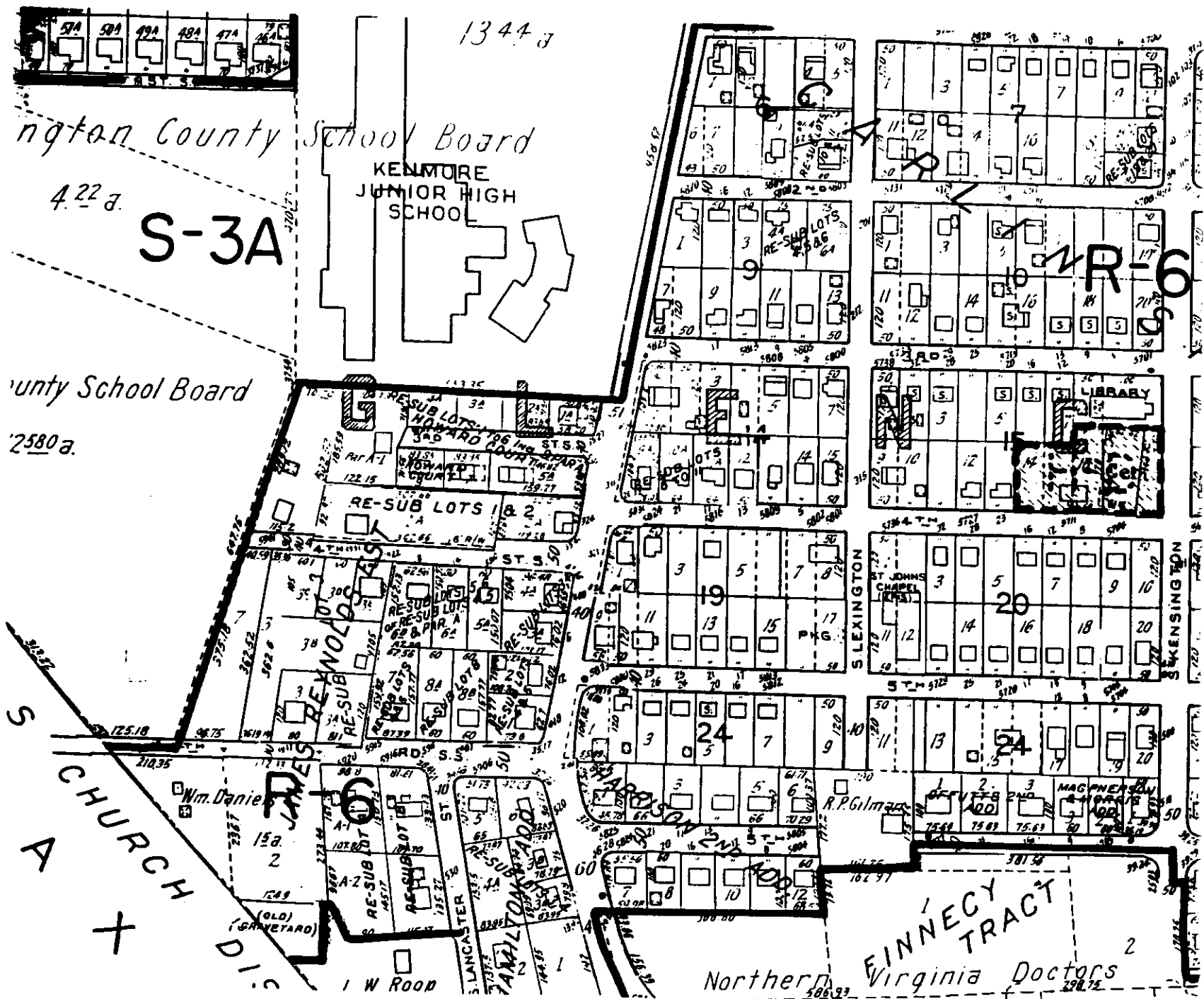
FILE NO.: same as above

PHOTO 8 of 8

portion of Arlington County  
Zoning Map No. 25

1" = 200'

Carlin Hall



# CARLIN SPRINGS

to

Washington and Alexandria

DRAWN BY H. V. NEWBY & CO.

Scale: One Inch = 2500 feet

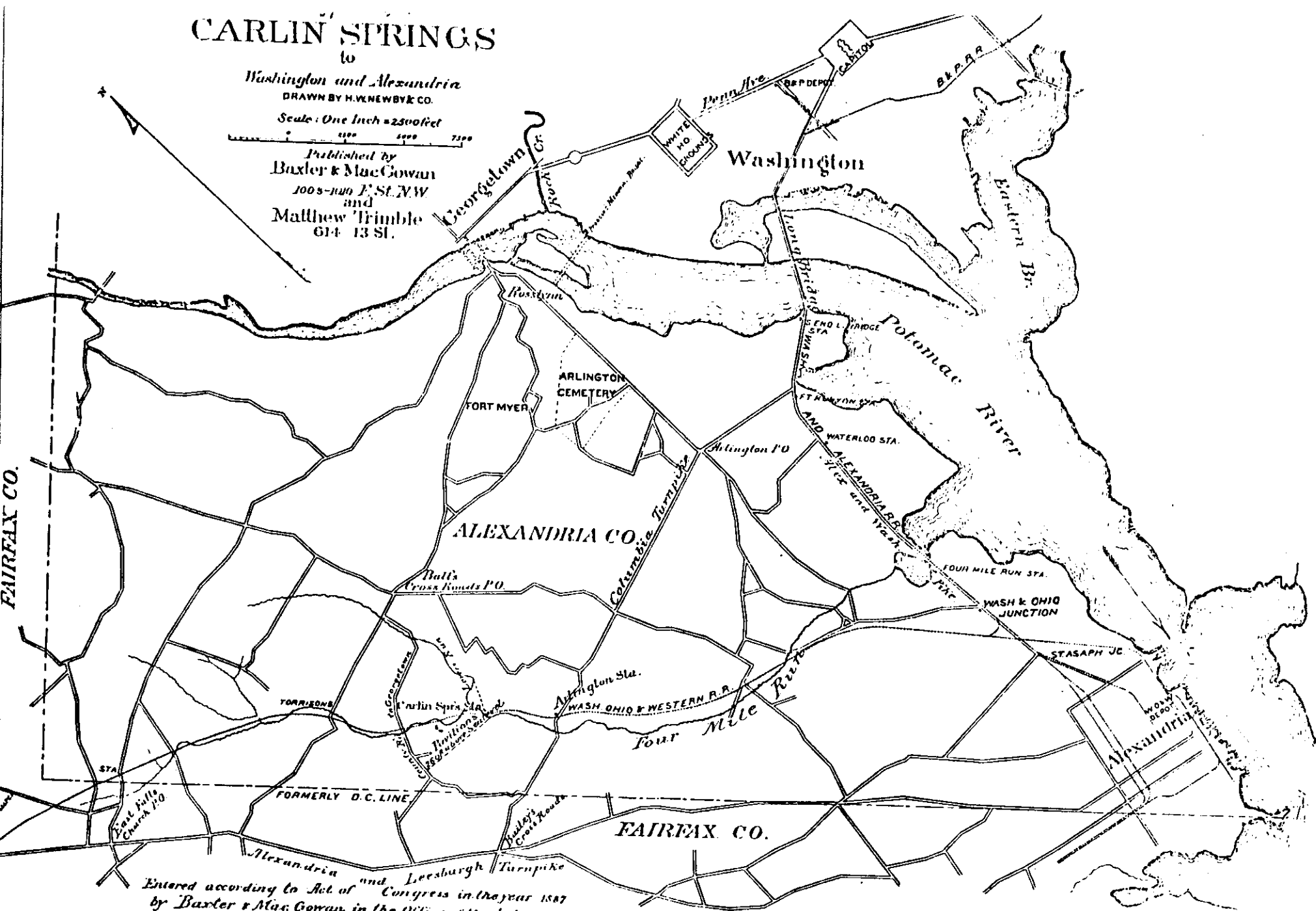
1000 2000 3000

Published by  
Baxler & MacGowan

1005-1007 F. St. N.W.

and  
Matthew Trimble  
614 13 St.

FAIRFAX CO.



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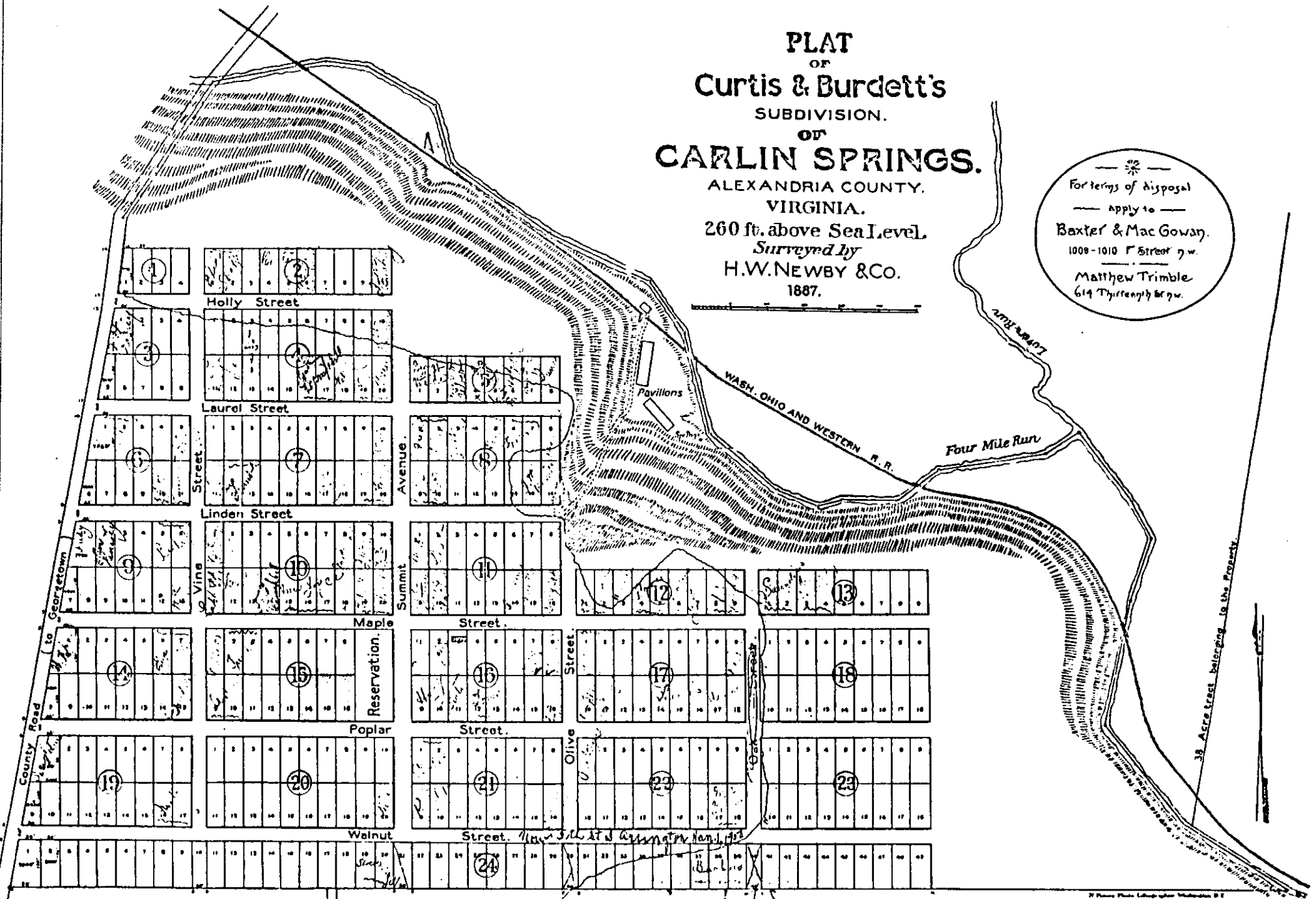
PLAT  
OF  
Curtis & Burdett's  
SUBDIVISION.  
OF  
CARLIN SPRINGS.

ALEXANDRIA COUNTY,  
VIRGINIA.

260 ft. above Sea Level.

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Old deeds not duly recorded.  
Liber & number 4  
page 63 of land records  
Alexandria, Va.

# ANNANDALE QUADRANGLE VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

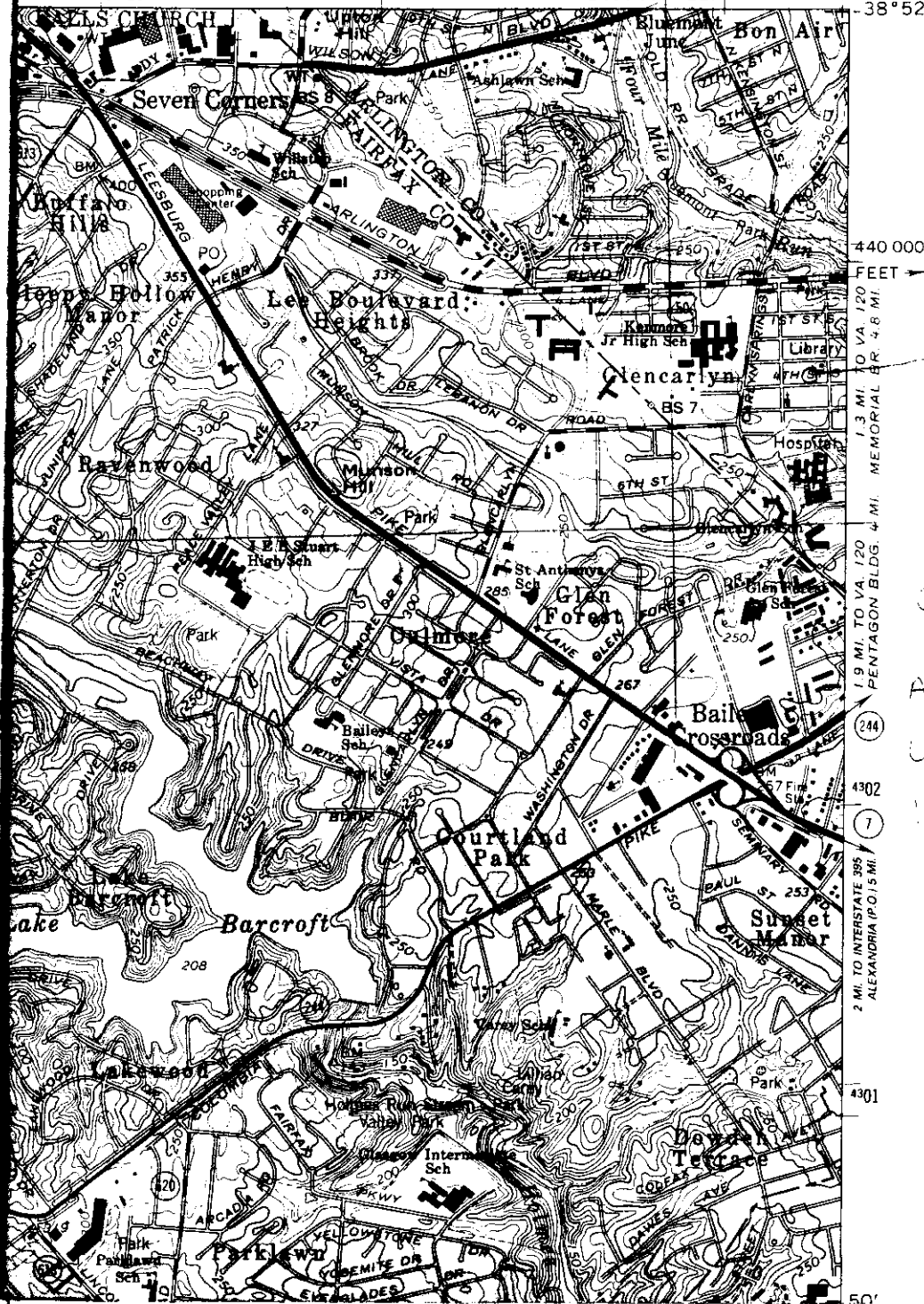
ESBURG 28 MI.  
MI. TO U.S. 29

KEY BRIDGE 4.3 MI.  
2390 000 FEET

77°07'30"

38°52'30"

55611 NE  
(WASHINGTON  
WEST)



Carlin  
Community  
Hall  
Arlington, VA  
UTM Ref:  
18F15510/  
4303520